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HARRIS LAWRENCE T
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INFO OCT-31 ABA-12 ISO-22 L-22 CIAI-22 INF-22 NSAF-22

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTVIDEO

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I.O. 110678: CA

TAGS: EING, PCOV, SEUM, NY

SUBJ: URUGUAY'S MILITARY COURT SYSTEM

REF: MONTVIDEO 4-77

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO CALL ATTENTION OF ALL OFFICES AND INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS TO ITS 4-77, "CONVERSATIONS WITH LEADING OFFICIALS OF URUGUAY'S MILITARY COURT SYSTEM".

2. AIRGRAM CONTAINS CONSIDERABLE FACTUAL INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN URUGUAY, AS WELL AS INSIGHTS INTO OPERATION OF URUGUAY'S CONTROVERSIAL MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM. IT SHOWS ARBITRARY AND FEAR-HEADED APPROACH OF WHOLE MILITARY JUDICIAL PROCESS, WHICH, WHILE POSSESSING A CERTAIN JUSTIFICATION UNDER CRISIS CONDITIONS, HAS LED TO ABUSES UNDER MORE NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN GREATER FLEXIBILITY IS NECESSARY.

3. THE AIRGRAM DEALS WITH CASES AND SITUATIONS OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, PAINTING A BROAD PICTURE OF THE PROCESS.

WE ARE CAUTIOUSLY HOPEFUL THAT THE MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM WILL NOW BE MODIFIED (ALBERT GRADUALLY) AND BROUGHT MORE IN LINE WITH CURRENT POLITICAL AND SECURITY REALITIES.

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